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Statement submitted by Women's Health and Education Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

It is a startling and sobering fact that, in 2014, every minute of every day, a woman dies in pregnancy and childbirth somewhere in the world. The Women's Health and Education Center aims to improve women's health through education and advocacy, particularly in developing countries. The Center's website, launched in cooperation with the United Nations, provides information on everyday issues associated with women's health. This e-learning initiative is active in 226 countries.

Health-care providers usually have interest or passion in a particular global issue or a particular region of the world. Preparing the next generation of health-care providers in the international arena, deepening their knowledge and improving the skill set for a career in global health and global governance are needed. The programmes expose health-care providers to both the academic training and practical knowledge necessary for developing a career trajectory that will focus the passion of health-care providers and actualize their desire to have an impact on national and international health-care policies. The programme is building the capacity to care.

In 2006, the Center began to develop scientifically based practice guidelines, in the form of practice bulletins, with a view to improving maternal health. The guidelines are derived from the best available evidence of clinical efficacy and with consideration given to costs, with recommendations explicitly linked to the evidence. These evidence-based practice guidelines are intended to be a means of improving the quality of health care, decreasing its cost and diminishing professional liability. They are proscriptive in nature and, therefore, directive in approach. The Center's board of physicians identifies, evaluates and synthesizes evidence from the medical literature to produce the practice bulletins, which serve as a readily available introduction to and overview of the topic.

The Center's website is designed as a resource for health-care providers and the general public which offers a better understanding of reproductive health and cultural understanding. The articles on the website provide an overview of current clinical management guidelines in respect of women's health, focusing on the components integral to providing optimum care. The articles are designed for all members of the interdisciplinary team: physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, midwives, nurses, social workers, therapists and other members seeking to enhance their knowledge of women's health and appropriate care and management.

The Center's website offers a vision for the globalized world. The use of information science and telecommunications to support the practice of medicine when distance separates the caregiver from the patient is the way forward to making medical care more affordable and more accessible in every country.

International development has moved beyond charity. It has reached a new, globally competitive stage, bringing with it enormous strategic and economic implications for all the nations and citizens of the world in the years ahead.

The challenge and opportunity are here. Let us make every mother and child count!